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**Date:** 6/30/2014

**GAIN Report Number:** LT1401

## Lithuania

**Post:** Warsaw

### EMP Biotechnology Outreach in Bulgaria and the Baltic Countries

**Report Categories:**

Biotechnology - GE Plants and Animals

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**Report Highlights:**

1. On September 19 and 20, 2013 FAS Sofia hosted two seminars on advanced crop biotechnology under USDA Emerging Markets Program (EMP). Due to extremely hostile local biotech environment, FAS Sofia approached the issue very carefully. The success of the seminars exceeded initial expectations. It demonstrated that if the biotech topic is addressed professionally with a vision and a plan and with a good understanding of local specifics, the public debate on this issue can be renewed. The seminars were organized in collaboration with two local partners: the Association of Agricultural Producers in Bulgaria (AAPB) and the Union of Feed Manufacturers in Bulgaria (UFMB). Professional audience of over 100 invitees was reached through these activities.
2. During September 21-26, 2013, FAS/Warsaw working together with U.S. Soybean Export Council, Latvian Association of Biotechnology, U.S. Embassy Riga and Lithuanian Association of Biotechnology and U.S. Embassy Vilnius utilizing Emerging Markets Program (EMP) funds

invited Dr. Tomas Moravec, Institute of Experimental Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, Kimball Nill, Director of International Technical Issues, U.S. Soybean Export Council in St. Louis, and Jerzy Kosieradzki, U. S. Soybean Council's Technical Director/Contractor for NE Europe to conduct regional biotechnology outreach in Latvia and Lithuania. Professional audience of over 120 invitees was reached through this activity.

## **General Information:**

### **Emerging Markets Program**

“Scientific and Practical Approaches to the Use of Green Biotechnology in the Countries of the European Union and the World”.

### **Final Report**

**Prepared by FAS Offices in Warsaw and Sofia**

## **Introduction**

The program was coordinated by FAS offices in Warsaw and Sofia - primary target was Eastern Europe, including Bulgaria, Latvia and Lithuania.

The activity contained two sub-components:

1. Activities in Bulgaria.
  2. Activities in Riga, Latvia and Vilnius, Lithuania
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1. On September 19 and 20, 2013 FAS Sofia hosted two seminars on advanced crop biotechnology under USDA Emerging Markets Program (EMP). Due to extremely hostile local biotech environment, FAS Sofia approached the issue very carefully. The success of the seminars exceeded initial expectations. It demonstrated that if the biotech topic is addressed professionally with a vision and a plan and with a good understanding of local specifics, the public debate on this issue can be renewed. The seminars were organized in collaboration with two local partners: the Association of Agricultural Producers in Bulgaria (AAPB) and the Union of Feed Manufacturers in Bulgaria (UFMB). Professional audience of over 100 invitees was reached through these activities.
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Detailed country activity reports are attached to this report for reference.

## **Final Financial Report**

	EMP funding
<b>I. Seminars and round table meetings</b>	
a. Travel for experts to the region	
• <b>Bulgaria:</b>	
• Airfare and Per Diem	\$ 3 068,91
• Venue Costs (incl VAT reimbursement)	\$ 1,848.87
• Translation and Printing Costs	\$ 823.76
• Local Transportation	\$431.19
• Expert Preparation Fee	\$490.00
<b>Subtotal:</b>	\$6,662.73
• <b>Baltic Countries:</b>	
• Airfare and Per Diem	\$ 3,274.79
• Venue Costs	\$4,871.53
• Translation and Printing Costs	\$528.32
• Expert Preparation Fee	\$ 1,470.00
• Lithuania and Latvia Biotechnology Association Organizational Cost	\$1,485.12
<b>Subtotal:</b>	\$11,629.76
<b>TOTAL EMP EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>\$18,292.49</b>

### **Executive Summary:**

The regional EMP activity “Scientific and Practical Approaches to the Use of Green Biotechnology in the Countries of the European Union and the World” gathered almost 250 participants representing farm organizations, scientists, government officials and Member of Parliament from the target countries. Apart from general knowledge about the status of application of biotechnology in the world, U.S. and the EU participants of seminars and roundtable meetings learned about practical applications in neighboring countries – Czech Republic and the challenges faced by local scientists working on new technologies in the EU. The EMP activity clearly indicated a need for follow-up programs which would target farmers and focused agriculture production sector e.g. poultry – which greatly depends on new technologies for economically viable feed supplies.

### **Difficulties Encountered**

Late allocation of the EMP funding within the fiscal year created difficulties in obtaining support of several approached speakers – who although interested in supporting the program already had earlier obligations during proposed dates.

**Accomplishments/Follow Up:**

On the basis of the information gathered during the activities it is possible to project increased interests in maintaining imports of feed containing GM components to targeted countries. Further outreach to the region would ensure transfer of latest knowledge on application of biotechnology in the world; in turn possibly affecting Member States approach and decision making at the EU level. Invited experts provided first-hand knowledge of current issues in biotechnology to contacts in Latvia, Lithuania and Bulgaria. Their excellent understanding of the challenges Europe is currently facing in agricultural biotechnology contributed a lot to reinforcing delivered messages. Though there were some concerns expressed, most questions related to a lack of understanding more than outright opposition.

**Cooperation and Principals:**

Please see attached detailed reports from the activities with detailed description of the area of expertise and U.S. and foreign organizations involved in the project.